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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~—A device for treating a crystal with a liquid ~~having~~comprising a holder for fixing the crystal and at least one micro dosage system, which is arranged in relation to the holder in such a way that it allows applying microdrops of the liquid onto the crystal fixed in the holder.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~—The device according to claim 1, which furthermore comprises a device, ~~by means of which~~ capable of generating a defined environment ~~can be generated~~ around the crystal during dripping-on of the liquid.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~—The device according to ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1 or~~ 2, wherein the generation of the defined environment is the generation of a gas stream of defined composition around the crystal.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~—The device according to claims ~~1 and~~ 3, wherein ~~furthermore~~ the holder is developed in such a way that the gas stream can be led through the holder in such a way that it is directed toward the crystal fixed in the holder.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~—The device according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein the holder consists of a carrier block for a holder capillary having a free support end for the crystal.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~—The device according to claim 5, wherein the holder capillary consists of a micro pipette, wherein a negative pressure can be generated in order to hold the crystal.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~—The device according to ~~any one of~~ claims ~~5 or~~ 6, wherein the carrier block of the holder contains an integrated gas channel having a mouth end, which is directed toward the support end of the holder capillary.

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8. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 7, which furthermore has~~ further comprising a gas mixing device, by means of which the composition of the gas stream can be adjusted variably.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 8, wherein the gas consists of air having a specific humidity content and the gas mixing device ~~is developed in such a way that by means of it~~ capable of adjusting the air humidity ~~can be adjusted~~.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 9, which furthermore comprises~~ further comprising a device for adding a solubilizer, by means of which a solubilizer for a substance to be introduced into the crystal structure of the crystal can be added to the gas stream.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 10, ~~which furthermore comprises~~ further comprising a device for adjusting the concentration of the solubilizer.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 11, which furthermore comprises~~ further comprising a temperature adjusting device, ~~by means of which~~ capable of variably adjusting the temperature of the gas stream ~~can be adjusted variably~~.
13. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1,~~ wherein the micro dosage system is developed in such a way that it can generate microdrops of the liquid to be applied onto the crystal, which have a volume that is smaller than the volume of the crystal.
14. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 13, wherein the micro dosage system is developed in such a way that it can generate microdrops having a volume of between 10 and 20 percent of the volume of the crystal and preferably between 5 and 10 percent of the volume of the crystal.
15. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~any one of claims 11 or 12,~~ wherein the micro dosage system is developed in such a way that it can generate

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microdrops having a volume of between 1 nl and 100 pl, preferably between 100 pl and 20 pl, and also preferably between 20 pl and 4 pl.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1,~~ wherein the micro dosage system furthermore ~~has~~ comprises a liquid supply system, by means of which different liquids to be dripped onto the crystal can be led to a drop generating part of the micro dosage system in a time-dependently controlled manner.
17. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 16, wherein the liquid supply system of the micro dosage system comprises an electrically controllable precision syringe and a duct system, ~~by means of which~~ capable of connecting the precision syringe ~~can be connected~~ with different liquid supply containers and with the drop generating part of the micro dosage system, in order to feed liquid for drop generation to the latter.
18. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1,~~ wherein the micro dosage system is developed in such a way that it comprises a piezo pipette forming the drop generation part.
19. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 18, wherein the piezo pipette consists of a capillary, which is enclosed by a piezoelectric element.
20. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 18 ~~or 19,~~ wherein the micro dosage system furthermore comprises a controlling device electrically connected with the piezo pipette, which is developed in such a way that it allows applying differently shaped voltage pulses, whose shapes regulate the shape and size of the microdrops and whose frequency regulates the frequency of the microdrops, to the piezo pipette.
21. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 17,~~ wherein the micro dosage system comprises a capillary and a micro valve arranged inside the capillary.

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22. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 21, wherein the micro dosage system furthermore comprises a controlling device for switching the micro valve on and off in order to generate the microdrops.
23. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1~~ comprising several micro dosage systems, which are, in relation to the holder, arranged in such a way that they allow applying microdrops of different liquids onto the crystal fixed in the holder.
24. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claim 1s~~, wherein the holder is furthermore developed in such a way that it is suitable for fixing a protein crystal.
25. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1~~, wherein the liquid consists of a solution.
26. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 21, wherein one or more substance/s to be introduced into the structure of the crystal or to react with the latter ~~is/are~~ solved in the solution.
27. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 26, wherein the one or more substance/s consist/s of one or more ligand/s or inhibitor/s.
28. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 26, wherein the one or more substance/s contain/s one or more reactant/s, which ~~is/are supposed to~~ can react with or in the protein crystal.
29. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 25, wherein the solution consists of water, wherein a substance is solved, which ~~is supposed to~~ can interact with the protein crystal.
30. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 29, wherein the substance consists of an inhibitor or a ligand, which is only hardly soluble in water.

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31. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the liquid contains a cryo buffer.
32. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the crystal in the holder is not arranged in a liquid, for example the mother solution.
33. (Currently Amended) ~~Goniometer~~ A goniometer head having a device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.
34. (Currently Amended) An X-ray irradiation installation having a device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ 1.
35. (Currently Amended) ~~Synchrotron~~ A synchrotron irradiation installation having a device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 33~~.
36. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for treating a crystal with a liquid having the following steps:
- fixing the crystal is ~~fixed, in particular~~ without being surrounded by a liquid environment; and
 - applying microdrops of the liquid ~~are applied~~ onto the crystal.
37. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 36, wherein ~~furthermore~~ a defined environment is generated around the crystal during the dripping-on of the microdrops.
38. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 37, wherein generating a defined environment comprises generating a gas stream having a defined composition around the crystal.
39. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 38, wherein the gas stream consists of an air stream of regulated air humidity.

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40. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 38, wherein the gas stream is regulated during dripping-on.
41. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 39 ~~or~~ 40, wherein the air humidity of the gas stream and the frequency, at which the drops are dripped onto the crystal by means of the micro dosage system, are coordinated during dripping-on in such a way, that the crystal is strained as little as possible, in particular that the volume of the crystal changes by no more than 20%, in particular no more than 10%.
42. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 38 ~~to~~ 41, wherein the gas stream comprises a solubilizer of regulated concentration for a substance to be applied onto the crystal.
43. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 36 ~~to~~ 42, wherein the volume of the microdrops is smaller than the volume of the crystal.
44. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 43, wherein the microdrops of the solution have a volume between 1 nl and 100 pl, preferably between 100 pl and 20 pl, and also preferably between 20 pl and 4 pl.
45. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 36 ~~to~~ 44, wherein the crystal is a protein crystal.
46. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 36 ~~to~~ 45, wherein the liquid consists of a solution, wherein the solution is optionally heated to a temperature higher than 20°C.
47. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 46, wherein the solution contains one or more substance/s containing one or more ligand/s and/or inhibitor/s.
48. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 46 ~~or~~ 47, wherein the solution consists of water or an organic solvent or a mixture of one or more organic

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solvent/s and/or water, in which a substance is contained, which is supposed to interact with the protein crystal.

49. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 47 ~~or 48~~, wherein the substance consists of an inhibitor or ligand, which is only hardly soluble in water.
50. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 36, wherein the liquid consists of a cryo buffer.
51. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any one of claims 386 to 50~~, wherein the gas stream contains one or more substance/s containing one or more ligand/s and/or inhibitor/s.
52. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 36 to 51~~, wherein the crystal is vapor-plated with solvent, in particular organic solvent, by means of an evaporator.
53. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for determining a protein crystallographic structure, optionally a complex of a protein and a substance, wherein the method steps according to ~~any one of claims 36 to 52~~ are conducted and furthermore the crystal is irradiated with X-ray or synchrotron radiation and the diffraction image of the crystal is recorded.
54. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 53, wherein the irradiation occurs during the treatment of the crystal with the liquid.
55. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any one of claims 53 or 54~~, ~~wherein furthermore~~ further comprising determining the intensities of the reflexes of the diffraction image ~~are determined~~.
56. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any one of claims 53 to 55~~, ~~wherein furthermore~~ further comprising determining the electron density of the crystal structure ~~is determined~~ by use of the phase information, for example from isomorphic substitution or MAD (multiple anomalous scattering).

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57. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for identifying ligands binding a crystallized protein, wherein (a) a potential ligand is applied onto the crystal by means of a method according to ~~any one of claims 36 to 52~~, (b) diffraction intensities are measured at intervals of variable length, and (c) said diffraction intensities measured at intervals are compared with respect to their time-dependent sequence.
58. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for X-ray crystallographic structure determination at high throughput, wherein (a) ~~the one or more crystal/s is/are~~ held ready, preferably in a freely mounted manner, (b) microdrops of a solution containing, for example, at least one ligand are applied onto the preferably freely mounted crystals, (c) the crystals treated according to method step (b) are stored, and (d) the crystals are examined X-ray crystallographically.